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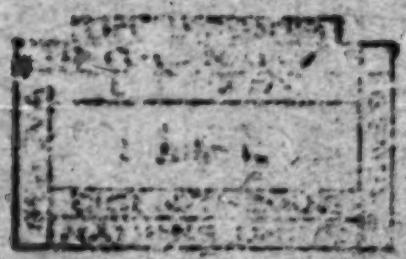
Results of the Fulfilment of the State Plan of Development of the National Economy of the Czechoslovak Republic for the year 1955

Report of the State Statistical Office



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Results of the Fulfilment of the State plan of Development of the National Economy of the Czechoslovak Republic for the year 1955

The successful development of the national economy and the increase in the material and cultural level of the population during the year 1955 can be illustrated by the following facts:

I. Development of Industry

The increased plan targets for gross industrial output were fulfilled in 1955 by 103 per cent.

Individual ministries fulfilled their plans for gross output in 1955 as follows:

	Fulfilment of plan in 1955 (%)
Ministry:	
Fuel	101
Power	101
Metallurgical industry and ore mines	106
Chemical industry	103
Engineering (total)	99
Building (production of building materials)	104
Forestry and wood-working industry	103
Light industry	104
Food industry	104
Industrial enterprises coming under the following ministries:	
Transport	103
Purchase of agricultural products	106
Culture	112
Health	103
Local industry	105
Other industries and central institutions	106
Producer co-operatives	111

Production targets set by the 1955 plan were exceeded, particularly in the following sectors: electric power, brown coal, hard coal brickets, natural gas, saleable iron ore, lead-zinc ore, petrol, fuel oil, crude steel, rolled material, steel tubing, special types of rolled material such as drawn high-speed steel and alloy section steel for constructional purposes and tools, lead, zinc, electrolytic copper, virgin aluminium, mine loading equipment, chutes for mine transport, tractor sowing and mowing machines, tractor reaping machines, threshing machines, grey and malleable iron castings, phosphate fertilisers, coal-tar dyes, polyvinyl chlorides, artifical (viscose, chardonnet and polyamide) silk, tyres, refractory material such as magnesite bricks, asbestos cement products such as pipes, pipe fittings and roofing, coniferous timber, plywood, unbleached cellulose, cardboard, etc.

The plan for 1955 was also surpassed in the production of many types of consumer goods such as meat, meat products, lard, pastry goods, chocolate and sugar confectionery, biscuits, bread, butter, cream, cream cheese, tinned milk, drugs such as penicillin, streptomycin and sulphonamides, furniture, paper, cotton fabrics, wool, pure silk, linen and semi-linen fabrics, carpets, thread, knitted outer garments, silon stockings and socks, leather and rubber footwear, electric bulbs, television sets, stoves for solid fuel, tyres and tubes, floor covering, printed plastic tablecloths, soap, etc.

Although gross output for the year 1955 surpassed the plan as a whole with the exception of the engineering ministries, several important tasks remained unfulfilled. For instance, the Ministry of Fuel failed to reach the output targets for hard coal, lignite and crude oil; the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines — the output plan for copper ore, the production of pyrites concentrates, quality steel plates and mine rails; the Ministry of the Chemical Industry — the production of nitrogenous fertilisers and rayon yarn; the Ministry of Engineering — the production of steam boilers, steam turbines, Diesel engines, certain types of machine-tools such as turret lathes, horizontal boring machines, grinding machines, drilling equipment, tractors, railway passenger coaches, passenger cars, spare parts for drilling equipment, for power shovels and grab excavators and for automobiles and motorcycles; the Ministry of Building — the production of cement, bricks and tiles; the Ministry of Forestry and Wood-working Industry — the production of cellulose; the Ministry of Light Industry — the production of cotton yarn and utility porcelain; the Ministry of Food — the production of refined sugar (due to the lower sugar content of beet); local industry — the production of bricks, tiles and slate roofing.

Despite the over-all quarterly and even monthly fulfilment and exceeding of the gross output plan, on an average one quarter of all enter-

prises failed to fulfil their monthly plans. Ministries were not sufficiently uncompromising in eliminating shortcomings in the management and organisation of production and uneven plan fulfilment. This was the case mainly in the enterprises of the Ministry of Fuel and of all three engineering ministries.

Compared with 1954, gross industrial output in 1955 expanded by 10.6 per cent. About 20 per cent of this growth was due to increase in the number of workers and 80 per cent to increased productivity.

Compared with 1954 the number of workers in industry rose by 2 per cent; the planned figure was not, however, attained especially in the enterprises of the Ministry of Fuel. Fluctuation and absenteeism in industry fell as compared with the previous year. Despite this fact absenteeism is still fairly high in the enterprises of the Ministry of Fuel and the Ministry of Building.

The productivity of labour in industry rose in 1955 compared with the preceding year by more than 8 per cent, thus surpassing the planned increase. The high increase in productivity can be attributed mainly to the improved technical level of industry and to better organisation of production. During 1955 the ratio between the rise in productivity and in the average workers' earnings developed satisfactorily.

The accelerated rate of growth in productivity also made possible the lowering of production costs. This reduction had a beneficial effect on raising the profits of industrial enterprises; this in turn made it possible for planned profits available for the State budget to be exceeded, thus increasing the sources of socialist accumulation. Despite this fact, several enterprises, especially those coming under the Ministries of Engineering and the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines, got into financial difficulties due mainly to their accumulating material stocks exceeding standards.

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In the individual branches of industry the following results were achieved in 1955:

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was increased by 6 per cent. A total of 23.2 milion tons of hard coal, 38.7 million tons of brown coal and 2 million tons of lignite was mined. Increased coal output was achieved due to better utilisation of existing capacity and machinery equipment and due to further mechanisation of the mines. During 1955 the number of coal combines in operation was stepped up, as was also the average output of coal combines and cutters. In open-cast mines the output of bucket-wheel excavators rose by 39 per

cent and of loaders by 35 per cent. Geological research in 1955 lead to the discovery of further deposits of hard and brown coal and also of lignite.

In the power industry production of electricity rose by 10 per cent, thus attaining the figure of 15 miliard kWh. As a result the supply of electric power available for industrial and domestic consumption was considerably improved. Fuel consumption per 1 kWh was further reduced, as were also losses in the distribution of electric power. Expansion of the power base in 1955 made possible the increase in installed output of electric power stations.

In the sector of ore mining the output of iron ore went up by 14 per cent; this increase was made possible due to improved mechanisation, despite the fact that the plan of mechanisation was not wholly fulfilled. Geological research revealed further deposits of iron ore. Installations for improving the quality of iron ore such as direct reduction plants were set up.

In the metallurgical industry almost 3 million tons of pig iron were produced, making an increase compared with 1954 of 7 per cent. The amount of crude steel produced was 4.5 millions tons, i. e. almost 5 per cent more than in 1954. Utilisation of the capacity of blast furnaces improved during the year 1955, but the planned figures were not attained. The production of bottle-neck material of quality section steel was increased by 7 per cent, of steel for reinforced concrete by 7 per cent and of precision steel tubes for machinery and apparatus by 22 per cent. The production of light metals was consideraly extended: aluminium by 56 per cent, zinc by 21 per cent and the former comparatively low production of electrolytically prepared copper rose to five times its previous level.

In the chemical industry the production base for the manufacture of sulphuric acid was expanded by the starting up production in new plants according to plan. The output of nitrogenous fertilisers was increased in 1955 by 57 per cent and of phospate fertilisers by 17 per cent. The production of rayon yarn for light industry went up by 40 per cent and of consumer goods produced by the chemical industry by 25 per cent.

In the engineering industry the output of steam boilers rose by 55 per cent, steam turbines by 36 per cent, generators for alternating current by 43 per cent, agricultural machinery by 87 per cent, machine tools by 25 per cent and forming machines to 2.4 times the 1954 level, roller bearings by 40 per cent, tractors by 52 per cent and electric motors by 26 per cent. The production of consumer goods was also consi-

derably increased, particularly motorcycles by 74 per cent, passenger cars 2.3 times, sewing machines by 58 per cent, electric vacuum cleaners 2.5 times, electric washing machines by 52 per cent, cameras by 82 per cent, etc.

In the engineering industry certain production processes were simplified, e. g. in the case of goods waggons, mowing machines, etc. The quality of engineering products was also improved.

In the field of building materials the production of the basic types of building materials continued to develop; the production of cement was 13 per cent higher than in 1954, lime 22 per cent and bricks 14 per cent. Increased production was achieved due to better utilisation of lime-kilns and to the introduction of all-year-round operation in brick works which had previously worked only seasonaly. Production of prefabricated parts continued to develop during 1955; for example 14 per cent more building parts were produced. The output of railway sleepers of prestressed concrete increased 3.2 times.

In the wood-working industry the production of coniferous timber went up by 10 per cent comparad with the 1954 level, deciduous timber by 10 per cent, furniture by 2 per cent, the production of suites of furniture rising by 18 per cent. Paper production went up by 4 per cent.

In the light industries the quality of goods was considerably improved and new types of textile, leather and glass products were introduced. Compared with 1954 the production of cotton fabrics rose by 4 per cent, woollen material by 13 per cent, balloon cloth by 44 per cent, silk fabrics by 25 per cent, of which pure silk by 21 per cent, woollen dress material by 32 per cent, knitted women's underwear by 31 per cent, silon stockings and socks 2.2 times, light walking footwear by 29 per cent, etc.

In the food industry production of butter went up by 16 per cent, tinned milk products by 24 per cent, fresh meat by 10 per cent, tinned meat by 35 per cent, fish products by 22 per cent, sugar products by 20 per cent, pastry and biscuits by 45 per cent and chocolate confectionery by 6 per cent. The range of food products was considerably extended and quality was also improved.

In the pharmaceutical industry the production of drugs was increased — sulphonamides by 26 per cent, penicillin by more than half and streptomycin by 81 per cent.

In local industry and producer co-operatives the overall production was raised by almost one quarter.

II. Technical Development

In 1955, especially after the publication of the thesis issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Government on the further technical development of Czechoslovak industry, increased attention was paid to raising the technical level and introducing new techniques.

The production of many new machines and advanced production methods were mastered. The engineering industry produced several new types of machinery and equipment not previosly made in Czechoslovakia, e. g. plants for hydroelectric power stations with Kaplan turbines for large heads, a grinding machine for crank-shafts weighing 160 tons, a grinding machine for paper and metallurgical rolling mills of large dimensions, a two-pedestal planing machine weighing 190 tons, etc.

In order to improve mechanisation of agriculture, the production of numerous machines and equipment was introduced, such as for instance a new wheat combine, silage harvesters and cutters and new types of cultivators, hoes, potato harvesters and planters, etc.

Various types of new machinery and equipment for the rubber, textile and food industry were put into production.

The production of a number of new artifical materials was introduced, such as silicon fibres, resins made from domestic raw materials and used in the production of impregnation varnish for the electrotechnical industry, etc. The quality of these resins far surpasses that of imported material. For the manufacture of electric valves and bulbs the production of molybden wire was commenced. A new type of weed-killer was introduced for use in agriculture.

In the building industry the production of light-weight materials using new insulating substances was introduced.

In the development of mechanisation successes were achieved in several fields. For example, in open-cast mines for brown coal earth digging and removal work was almost completely mechanised and the plan of mechanisation of work connected with the preparing and opening up of new corridors in the North Bohemian brown coalfields was exceeded by more than 10 per cent. On the other hand, mechanisation in other fields proceeded slowly. For example, in the Ostrava-Karvina coalfield the scheduled mechanisation of preparing and opening up new corridors was not fulfilled. However, the introduction of mechanisation was not accompanied by the necessary preparations of the appropriate place of work. In the ore-mines the plan of mechanisation, especially of drilling operations, did not proceed satisfactorily either. During the course of mechanisation of loading in iron-ore mines, the volume of work performed by the loaders exceeded plan. In metallurgical shops the mecha-

nisation of unskilled work is behind schedule, as is also the mechanisation of slag-removal in small individual electric power stations. Neither were planned targets of mechanisation fulfilled in the timber industry, in the meat industry and elsewhere. The building industry failed to carry out the mechanisation of concrete mixing and reinforcing. The situation in mechanisation of loading and unloading operations in transport is still unsatisfactory.

In the sphere of automatic regulation of production processes work proceeds successfully on the automation of the heat regime in open-hearth furnaces, thus making possible further increase in steel production and the economy of fuel. Automatic production control in coke-ovens and automation of coal washing continue to make good progress. Several successes were also attained in the automation of certain processes in light industry. Despite certain progress, however, the rate of automation still fails to meet the requirements of the speediest possible raising of the technical level of industry.

Although there has been a definite improvement in the introduction of new techniques and in fulfilling the plan of technical development, there are still marked shortcomings in the introduction of advanced technical methods in general and in the progress of mechanisation and automation: in addition, the engineering industry has not succeeded in mastering sufficiently the production of new machinery, equipment and apparatus.

The innovators' movement has made an outstanding contribution to the propagation of new techniques. In 1955 more than 120 thousand improvement suggestions were submitted; however, proposals of workers are still not put into practice quickly enough.

III. Development of Agriculture and Forestry

The sustained attention given by the Communist Party and the Government to the development of agriculture and the increased efforts of co-operative farmers, employees of machine and tractor stations and State farms and also those of small and middle farmers was assisted in 1955 by favourable weather and resulted in improved output of agricultural products.

According to preliminary statistics the total agricultural output compared with 1954 rose by 11.5 per cent, crop production rising by 14 per cent and livestock production by almost 8 per cent.

In 1955 more attention was paid to utilisation of the soil. The total area under cultivation was increased. Maize production in particular was

raised by 9 per cent and turnip production by 22 per cent. Despite these increases the goals set by the tenth congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia for the expansion of the area under cultivation were not entirely fulfilled, because not sufficient land was sown to rye, barley, turnips, sugar beet and potatoes.

As a result of changes in the cultivated areas and of increases in yield, the total harvest of certain crops was higher than in 1954; for instance, increase in wheat yield amounted to 33.3 per cent, rye 19.5 per cent, sugar beet 8.9 per cent, potatoes 2.8 per cent etc.

Better autumn preparations were made for the 1956 harvest than in 1954; autumn ploughing in particular was carried out over an area 170 hectares[1]) larger than in 1954.

In 1955 the number of agricultural workers increased by more than 100 thousand. In addition 14 thousand pupils were enrolled in agricultural schools. Effective assistance in cultivating fallow land, in harvesting and in undertaking other tasks connected with crop and livestock production was given by brigades of young people in the border regions, where a total of 16 thousand workers took part.

With a view to increasing crop production in 1955 farms were supplied with 28 per cent more nitrogenous fertilisers in unadulterated form, 19 per cent more phospate fertilisers and 21 per cent more potash than in the previous year. The bigger supplies of artifical fertilisers were not always, however, fully utilised, especially by State farms.

In the past year mechanisation of field work considerably improved. Many new efficient machines were supplied. During 1955 the following machines were delivered for use in agriculture: 5 284 tractors, 1 443 wheat combines, 732 beet combines, 147 flax combines and 929 automatic threshing machines; also the following number of tractor attachments: 4 013 three and five furrow ploughs, 3 655 disc harrows, 6 246 narrow-gauge sowers, 1 249 potato planters. The plan of deliveries of cultivators, harrows and hoes was not fulfilled. A total of 2 053 lorries was delivered for use in agriculture.

During 1955 ninety five new machine and tractor stations (MTS) were established. The number of district agronomists was considerably increased.

Machine and tractor stations carried out field work on almost 700 thousand average hectares more than in 1954. Although they were allocated higher targets than in 1954 and although, due to bad weather, they often had to work under very difficult conditions, the total yearly plan of field work was fulfilled by 100.6 per cent, comprising 103.3 per cent fulfilment

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1) One hectare equals approximately 2.5 acres.

of spring work and 99.5 per cent fulfilment of harvesting and autumn work. Total cultivation work was 126 per cent higher than in 1954. Combines harvested 37 per cent more grain and 55 per cent more flax. Of the total grain crop harvested by the MTS using self-binders and combines, 25 per cent was dealt with by combines alone. The machinery of the machine and tractor stations is still not put to sufficient use considering their technical equipment and personnel.

Besides field word the machine-and tractor stations also performed forging and smithy work for the Unified Agricultural Co-operatives (UAC) and for individual small and middle farmers; in addition, 202 stations were set up specially for installing, repairing and maintenance of mechanisation equipment in farm buildings.

Good results were obtained during 1955 in livestock production. Fodder supplies were better ensured than in previous years due to higher yields of fodder and leguminous crops, increased silage capacity and imports. The plan for the number of head of livestock was fulfilled — in the case of cattle by 101 per cent and in the case of pigs by 113 per cent. The number of head of cattle rose by 52 thousand, but the planned number of milk cows was not attained. The number of calves reared per 100 cows was 7.3 per cent higher and milk yields 8,9 per cent higher than in 1954. The mortality of calves fell by 6.5 per cent. The average live weight of beef cattle increased by 20.4 kg.

Compared with 1954 the number of pigs rose by 684 thousand, making a total considerably exceeding the average figure for the years 1934—1938. The growth in the number of market pigs was also accompanied by an increase in the number of domestic killings. The efficiency of pig breeding improved in 1955, because 557 thousand more sucking pigs were born than in 1954, the number of young pigs reared per sow rose by 4.1 per cent and the mortality of sucking pigs fell by 6 per cent. At the same time the average live weight of fattened hogs rose by 2.5 kg.

Despite the fact that milk yields increased by 249 million litres, the plan was fufilled only to the extent of 97.5 per cent. Egg production reached only 80 per cent of plan.

Increased agricultural production made possible improved buying and selling of agricultural products.

On the whole the purchasing plan was well fulfilled: corn by 104 per cent (comprising 106 per cent for wheat, 96 per cent for rye and 114 per cent for barley), sugar beet by 100.5 per cent, potatoes by 92 per cent, meat by 103 per cent (comprising 110 per cent for fattened hogs and 96 per cent for beef cattle), milk by 102 per cent and eggs by 95 per cent.

The purchasing of individual kinds of agricultural products increased

considerably. The following quantities were delivered in excess of 1954:

	Thousand tons
wheat	82
barley	65
sugar beet	465
vegetables	59
fattened hogs	46
milk	170
eggs	63

The fulfilment of the purchasing plan in the individual regions was better than in previous years. All regions fulfilled their purchasing plans for corn and 18 regions the plans for hogs; only ten regions, however, fulfilled their plans for milk delivery.

In 1955 a larger proportion of the total deliveries was bought by the State at higher prices than in the previous year. For instance, the State purchased 244 per cent more corn, 106 per cent more fattened hogs, 80 per cent more milk, 59 per cent more eggs. In this way the turnover of agricultural co-operatives and the income of independent small and middle farmers were considerably augmented.

The work of the State purchasing agencies improved during 1955. The large majority of unified agricultural co-operatives and individual small and middle farmers fulfilled their delivery quotas.

The growth in agricultural production can be attributed to a large extent to the UAC and the State farms.

In 1955 the Unified Agricultural Co-operatives underwent further consolidation and after the June resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia there followed a speeding up in their development. Since the beginning of the year the number of agricultural co-operatives of types III and IV rose by 293, the area of agricultural land cultivated by co-operatives increased by 44 thousand hectares and the number of co-operative members rose by 26 thousand. The proportion of the total agricultural land worked by the co-operatives is now 27 per cent, of arable land 29 per cent. In 1955 the co-operatives put into practice various new agronomical and veterinary techniques. As a result they attained higher yields of certain crops than the individual small and middle farmers and better efficiency than in 1954. At the same time the rate of capital investment into the agricultural co-operatives increased. Compared with 1954 remuneration per working unit improved.

During 1955 the State farms took over more than 80 thousand hectares of agricultural land. New agronomical techniques were used on a wide scale. For example, 87 per cent of grain was sown in narrow gauged rows,

32 per cent of sugar beet was cultivated according to Prosenice[2]) methods and 20 per cent of potatoes were sown in nests. In livestock production substantially better results were achieved than in 1954; the number of calves reared per 100 cows rose by 5 per cent, the number of sucking pigs born by 2.3 per cent and on an average milk yields on State farms were highest.

On the whole, as a result of the growing use of progressive agronomical and veterinary techniques and the improved quality of work in crop and livestock production, socialist, collective, agricultural production which now covers 41.7 per cent of agricultural and 43.1 per cent of arable land is proving its superiority over that of independent small and middle farmers.

The socialist sector fulfilled its delivery quotas better than the sector held in private hands. The former delivered 17 per cent more corn, 10 per cent more sugar beet, 87 per cent more turnips, 5 per cent more pork, 9 per cent more milk and 18 per cent more eggs than in 1954.

The proportion of total agricultural deliveries contributed by the socialist sector amounts to 46 per cent for grain, 57 per cent for sugar beet, 75 per cent for turnips, 47 per cent for meat, 43 per cent for milk and 50 per cent for wool.

In 1955 an area of 99 thousand hectares of land was afforested, the plan being fulfilled by 100.8 per cent. Newly planted saplings were tended over an area of 63 thousand hectares. Autumn preparations for afforestation work in 1956 were carried out over 29 thousand hectares. As a result of the devoted work of forestry employees the damage wrought by a severe storm was dealt with within the period specified by Government decree. A total of 5 968 thousand cu. m. of damaged wood was rescued for use, i. e. 3 477 thousand cu. m. more than in the previous year.

IV. Development of Transport and Communications

The total volume of goods conveyed by public transport in 1955 as compared with 1954 increased by more than 10 per cent, the plan being fulfilled by 105 per cent. This increase was due mainly to railway transport.

The growth in volume of transported goods amounted to 9.6 per cent for railway transport, 11 per cent for road transport conducted under the enterprise of Czechoslovak State Road Transport (CSRT), 38 per cent for river transport and 2 per cent for airways.

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[2]) These methods which developed in the Moravian village of Prosenice consist in denser cultivation of beets per hectare, thus leading to higher yields.

The passenger transport plan was surpassed by 5 per cent, the number of passengers increasing by 6 per cent compared with 1954. This growth was due mainly to increased road transport under CSRT.

The average circulation period per vehicle was slightly reduced compared with 1954; planned standards were not, however, quite attained.

Due to the expanding »heavy tonnage« movement, the average gross weight per train was higher not only than in 1954 but also than the scheduled figure. The number of goods trains travelling from start to destination with their original freight was twice as great as in the previous year.

Among other things the introduction of new techniques in rail transport contributed to the more efficient utilisation of train capacity. This took the form of putting into operation more powerful locomotives and extending the number of goods waggons of increased tonnage by four or more.

The average number of times goods waggons were loaded and unloaded also increased considerably and at the same time loading and unloading took place at much more regular intervals, mainly due to better distribution of work on Sundays. Despite this there were certain shortcomings in the steady movement of waggons to and from mines.

In 1955 transport dealt successfully with the increased demands of the sugar-beet campaign.

With the aim of speeding up transport and raising capacity the new railway-line from Turňa on the Bodva to Rožňav was completed and put into operation. The Railway-line of Friendship was completed, as was also electrification of the track from Liptovský Mikuláš to Poprad, where trial runs have already begun.

In 1955 road transport under CSRT fulfilled the goods traffic plan in tons by 105 per cent; the volume of goods conveyed in 1955 rose compared with 1954 by 11 per cent. Bus transport fulfilled its passenger traffic plan by 107 per cent, while the number of passenger journeys increased by 9 per cent. The larger number of motor vehicles and buses in operation as well as improved capacity per vehicle made possible the increased performance of goods and passenger transport alike. Modernisation and better maintenance of vehicles in operation resulted in a considerable reducion in repair work. During the year the network of bus communication was extended by 227 new routes.

As from 1. 9. 1955 the district transport of single goods consignments was introduced.

In shipping favourable sailing conditions made it possible to surpass the goods transport plan by 35 per cent. Performance thus increased by 38 per cent compared with 1954.

In air transport new routes were opened between Prague and Moscow and between Prague and Paris. The number of passengers carried increas-

ed, the yearly plan being fulfilled by 115 per cent. The volume of cargo transport measured in tkm rose by 33 per cent mainly due to a considerable growth in the average distance flown; the yearly plan was fulfilled by 108 per cent.

In 1955 the specified targets for communications were surpassed. Altogether 122 new post-offices were set up. The broadcasting network was also extended. Work on the second television broadcasting station in Ostrava was completed and towards the end of 1955 trial transmission was begun; at the same time work has started on another television broadcasting station in Bratislava.

The number of wireless licence owners rose during 1955 by 4 per cent to the figure of 2.8 millions, while by the end of 1955 there were 32 thousand owners of television licences. During the year further districts and individuals were connected up to the network for radio listening by wire.

In 1955 the number of telephone stations rose by 9 per cent, the plan being fulfilled by 104 per cent. Further progress was made in linking up agricultural enterprises to the telephone network; planned targets were fulfilled by 117 per cent. By the end of the year 80 per cent of machine and tractor stations, 74 per cent of State farms and 31 per cent of Unified Agricultural Co-operatives were already provided with telephones.

V. Investment

In 1955 capital equipment in the shape of machinery and installations, buildings and constructions was further increased. At the same time general repairs to capital equipment rose substantially. However, the investment plan was fulfilled by only 91 per cent.

The level of investment in the national economy remained approximately the same as in 1954. Agricultural investment rose, however, by 45 per cent, housing investment by 9 per cent and investment expenditure on education and cultural facilities was increased.

Non-fulfilment of the investment plan was mainly due to failure to fulfil the building plan and to meet delivery dates.

The main reasons for the unsatisfactory situation in investment activity consist in bad organisation of work, absenteeism and fluctuation, failure to use means of mechanisation, widespread incompletion of projects already started and slow rate of putting capital equipment into operation.

Investment expenditure raised the production possibilities of individual branches of the national economy mainly as a result of putting new production units into operation and extending those already existing.

In the fuel industry production was started up in new plants for mining and processing hard coal, brown coal and lignite; the capacity of coke-

ovens was also expanded. In the power industry investment made possible an increase of 565 000 kW in the capacity of thermal and hydro-electric plants. In the metallurgical industry a new open-hearth furnace was put into operation, trial production was begun in 3 new direct-reduction plants and normal production in agglomeration and other plants for aluminium production. In the chemical industry new installation was introduced for the production of sulphuric acid, nitrogenous fertilisers, etc. In the building industry a new cement works went into production and the capacity of brick works and production of prefabricated parts were extended. In the paper industry new capacity was gained by enlarging existing paper works and by building a new paper and cellulose factory.

New important plants went into production in the engineering and other industries. With a view to increasing the production capacity of the national economy more than 10 000 machine tools were supplied, almost 3 000 of which were lathes and over 3 500 drills. The majority of these machines went to the engineering industry.

A total of 114 new steam-driven locomotives, 10 electric and 2 with internal combustion engines were put into operation. In addition, 5 800 new goods waggons (calculated on a basis of two-axled waggons), 417 passenger coaches and 148 motor coaches were supplied. In river transport several new metal barges were launched.

Investment in the field of trade was directed to increasing storage space.

Definite progress was made also in other branches of economic life. New schools, hospitals, health centres and other cutural and social facilities were handed over for use.

Despite a certain improvement over the previous year, the house-building plan was not satisfactorily fulfilled. During the year 48 000 dwelling units were completed, 13 200 of which were built under the scheme of private building.

Agricultural investment in State farms and machine and tractor stations rose compared with 1954 by almost 50 per cent. Farm buildings were extended to accomodate 9 300 more head of cattle.

In 1955 investments in the Unified Agricultural Co-operatives also increased. Cow-sheds were built for 60 000 cows, nurseries for 13 000 calves and sties for 100 000 pigs.

Building and construction assembly enterprises fulfilled the plan of total building and assembly work by 97 per cent. The volume of work performed by their employees was approximately 4 per cent higher than in 1954.

In 1955 the undesirable decline in the number of building and construction assembly workers continued and constituted 6 per cent of the 1953 figure. Labour productivity rose by 9 per cent compared with 1954, the

planned increase thus being surpassed. The growth in productivity was partly due to wide-spread mechanisation and complex mechanisation of building work, particularly casing and concrete reinforcing. Improved complex mechanisation of earth-moving and operations involving concrete was introduced. Better utilisation of heavy building machinery made possible increased mechanisation. In addition, advanced building methods were employed, e. g. in 1955 the Ministry of Building put into practice assembly-line methods of work in the case of 60 per cent of dwelling units. Frequently, however, the steady flow of work was not maintained.

Building and construction assembly enterprises, however, still failed to pay sufficient attention to work organisation and the general management of building progress. This was the main reason for the non-fulfilment of the plan in 1955. No serious attempt was made to eliminate seasonal work and introduce more regular distribution of work throughout the year. Whereas general repairs and maintenance work performed by building and assembly enterprises were satisfactorily ahead of plan, work of an investment nature was considerably behind plan.

Building and construction assembly costs remained roughly on the same level as in 1954.

VI. Development of Home and Foreign Trade.

The plan for retail trade turnover was fulfilled in 1955 by 102 per cent, 11 per cent more goods being sold than in 1954. The plan for the network of State shops was fulfilled by 102 per cent, for co-operative shops by 105 per cent and for works' canteens by 100 per cent.

Sales of food products (in terms of quantity) rose compared with 1954, particularly for the following goods: fresh meat by 4 per cent, meat products by 5 per cent, sugar by 4 per cent, white flour products by 10 per cent, butter by 2 per cent, coffee by 20 per cent, tea by 15 per cent, beer by 5 per cent and fruit by 15 per cent.

Similarly, the sales of industrial consumer goods increased compared with 1954, for example, linen fabrics by 8 per cent, television sets 2.3 times, refrigerators by 58 per cent, electric washing machines by 64 per cent, motorcycles 2.2 times, cement by 76 per cent, bricks by 41 per cent, suites of furniture by 12 per cent, wrist watches by 58 per cent, soap by 8 per cent, etc.

Despite the large increase in purchase of washing machines, television sets, motorcycles, etc, supply failed to meet the demand for these goods.

With a view to meeting better consumers' demands 546 new shops were opened.

Turnover in factory canteens reached the planned level, increasing by 9 per cent compared with 1954.

In 1955 a marked expansion in foreign trade took place. Compared with the previous year the turnover due to foreign trade increased by 15 per cent.

Growth in exports of engineering products made possible a rise in imports not only of raw materials but also of consumer goods. Czechoslovak agriculture benefitted substantially by enlarged deliveries of imported materials. For instance, fodder imports rose compared with the previous year by more than twice, and imports of artificial fertilisers and raw materials for their manufacture by 13 per cent.

Economic co-operation with the other socialist countries continued to develop. Despite the already considerable share of these countries in Czechoslovak foreign trade, the turnover in 1955 was further increased; exports consisted to a large extent of complete production plants, such as electric power stations, sugar refineries and other production equipment, the exports of which rose by 26 per cent. Czechoslovakia received from these countries more raw-materials and special machinery. The quantity of industrial consumer goods imported from these countries rose to twice the level of the previous year.

In accordance with the peaceful aims of the socialist world economic co-operation with capitalist countries also developed successfully. Compared with the previous year trade turnover, particularly with economically under-developed countries, increased.

VII. Increase in the Material and Cultural Level of the Population

During 1955 the material and cultural living-standard of the population continued to improve. The national income rose by 9 per cent mainly due to increased productivity and higher degree of employment. The latter increased by more than 2 per cent compared with 1954. The growth in the national income made possible increased personal consumption of the population to the extent of almost 10 per cent.

Average wages and salaries over the whole national economy rose by 2 per cent. An outstanding event was the decision of the Communist Party and the Goverment to raise wages and salaries of certain sections of the working population, mainly foremen, university professors, specialist teachers in trade schools, chief physicians and surgeons, etc. As a result of the successful achievements in the development of crop and livestock production, the incomes of the agricultural population, especially farm co-operative members, showed a still further increase.

A further reduction in retail prices as from the first of April, 1955 —

the fourth since the currency reform in 1953 — meant for the people an annual saving of more than 1,3 milliard crowns.

The raised earnings of the population and the price reductions meant an increase in real wages and incomes. This increase was confirmed also by a rise of over 1 600 million crowns in small savings in the State Savings Bank.

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In 1955 education and culture continued to develop. The number of elementary and junior secondary schools reached the figure of 12 374, i. e. three per cent more than in the previous year.

In the last three classes of the eleven-year secondary schools almost 15 per cent more pupils were studying and in technical schools and teachers' training colleges 2 per cent more than in the previous year. One half of all pupils studying at technical and special schools were girls.

During the session 1955—1956 a total of 48 500 full-time students studied at 106 university faculties, i. e. 650 more than for the session 1954—1955. Fifty four per cent of the total number of students studied at technical faculties.

Part-time students at technical and secondary schools number over 51 000 and at universities over 22 000.

During 1955 the number of students finishing technical schools and teachers' training colleges increased by 11 per cent and completing university studies by 18 per cent.

A total of 68 thousand young qualified workers completed their studies in mining, railway and other training centres of the State Labour Reserves and works' apprentice schools and started full-time employment in industry, building, agriculture, transport, commerce and other branches of the national economy.

During the session 1955—1956, 139 thousand young people are being prepared as skilled workers in the training centres of the State Labour Reserves and works' apprentice schools.

During last year 26 230 performances of 70 different theatre productions were given to audiences numbering 12,8 million. By the end of 1955 the existing 3 476 cinemas had given almost 980 thousand performances to audiences numbering 1 638 million, i. e. an increase of 7.6 per cent over 1954. Film studios completed 631 new films, 18 of which were full-length. Eleven of the latter were coloured. Development of press and publishing activity resulted in 3.4 per cent increased sales of journals compared with 1954. During 1955 a total of 4 400 books was published in editions averaging 10 600 copies. As in the past, special attention was

paid to raising the artistic level of programmes of touring theatrical and variety companies. The activities of mobile cinemas and libraries was also extended.

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Social and health care made further progress during 1955. The sums allotted by the State Budget for the health services was 154 million crowns higher than in 1954. The network of health institutions was extended and improved. Eight new hospitals were built, 8 maternity homes, 2 infants' homes, 8 children's homes and 11 medical institutions for various diseases.

Compared with the end of 1954 the number of beds in these institutions increased by 4 500, their plan, however, not being fulfilled on the whole, due to delays in building work. The number of out-patient departments rose by 165.

In 1955 the number of openings for doctors within the whole medical service increased by 749, 484 of which were attached to out-patient departments. In State spa institutions 74 thousand patients were treated during 1955 — i. e. almost 3 800 more than in the previous year — for the same treatment period.

The care of children of employed mothers was further improved. Compared with [illegible] number of crèches was increased by 12 with accomodation for 80[illegible] A total of about 490 thousand pupils partook of school dinners [illegible] 135 thousand were looked after in children's after-school care.

In Trade Union [illegible]tutions special treatment was given to more than 150 thousand [illegible]rs and their dependents.

During 1955 over 225 [illegible]sand workers were rewarded by free holidays in Trade Union recreation centres. More than 100 thousand workers spent their holidays along with their familes in the recreation centres belonging to their works. Similarly, during the session 1954—1955 one hundred and forty thousand young people from the State Labour Reserves and schools were enabled to spend their holidays in recreation centres and camps in the most beautiful spots of the republic.

In 1955 much higher sums were spent on national insurance allowances and other benefits. For instance, about 140 million crowns more was paid out through national insurance and children's allowances than in 1954. Almost 7.3 milliard crowns were devoted to the social security of old persons and invalids, i. e. 7.2 per cent more than in 1954. The care for old-age pensioners was shown in extended facilities and services for them. The number of old-age pensioners' homes rose by 12 with a total increased capacity of 1 568 beds. Local authorities paid special attention to

old people who were ill and without relatives. A total of 103 million crowns was paid out in special benefits to these aged citizens. Seventeen new canteens and clubs for pensioners were set up; the number of persons using these canteens rose from 13 to 19 thousand.

One of the outstanding successes of 1955 was the further reduction in the mortality rate and particularly of child and infant mortality. The number of deaths per thousand of the population fell to 9.8 compared with 10.4 in 1954. New drugs significantly lowered the mortality rate of certain diseases, For example, the mortality rate was substantially reduced in the case of diphtheria, whooping cough and lung diseases, particularly pneumonia. The mortality rate of scarlet fever was almost completely eliminated. Infant mortality fell to 33.9 per thousand live births compared with 37.6 in 1954.

The rate of increase in population amounted to 10.6 per thousand; as a result the total population of the country at the end of 1955 reached the figure of 13 157 thousand, 3 754 thousand of whom were in Slovakia.

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The State plan of development of the national economy for the year 1955 was successfully fulfilled and created the necessary conditions for the further speedy development of the national economy and continued growth in the material and cultural level of the population during the course of the Second Five-year Plan.

RESULTS OF THE FULFILMENT OF THE STATE PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC FOR THE YEAR 1955

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